

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea
SUBJECT Attitude of ROK Citizens Toward the Truce and the Minister of Defense

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1. Most ROK citizens favor the truce and are convinced the war will not be resumed. This partially explains the mass exodus from Pusan and other southern cities to return to Seoul. Only Liberal Party members and other supporters of the administration believe the fighting will be resumed.
2. If President RHEE should order an attack north, the people and the army would balk. Such action might lead to a coup d'etat.
3. Most ROK citizens and opposition leaders thought highly of SON Won-il when he was first appointed Defense Minister. Since then they have lost confidence in him because of his public statements that the ROK army can advance north alone.

1. Comment. SON was appointed Defense Minister on 30 June 1953.

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